

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KABUL 00721 311011Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5994

INFO RUHQHQA CINCPAC HAWAII IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KABUL 0721

STATE PASS DOD/ISA FOR GENERAL BALDWIN FROM KABUL DEPUTY
CHIEF
OF MISSION TED CURRAN

CINCPAC FOR GENERAL MCCLEOD, DECPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

STATE FOR NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF

SUBJ: GRANT TO CHIEF OF STAFF

1. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW BY NOW, PRESIDENT DAOUD HAS SHAKEN
UP HIS TOP MILITARY AND MOVED CHIEF OF STAFF ABDUL KARIM
MOSTAGHNI TO ANOTHER, AS YET UNANNOUNCED, GOVERNMENT POSITION.
MOSTAGHNI WAS REPLACED BY GENERAL GHULAM HAIDER RASULI, A
LEADING MILITARY FIGURE IN AFGHANISTAN.

2. I AM CONSCIOUS OF THE IRONY OF THIS STEP COMING WITHIN
A WEEK OF OUR MEETING IN WASHINGTON WHEN I STRESSED TO YOU
THE STRENGTH OF MOSTAGHNI'S PERSONAL RELATINSHIP WITH DAOUD.
ACTUALLY, THE VERY STRENGTH OF THEIR ASSOCIATION AND THE
FACT THAT MOSTAGHNI WAS TRANSFERRED, NOT FIRED, MAY GIVE
SOME CREDENCE TO THE POINT I WAS TRYING TO MAKE.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 KABUL 00721 311011Z

3. MOSTAGHNI'S FUTURE ASIDE, AMBASSADOR ELIOT HAS ASKED

ME TO EXPRESS THIS MISSION'S URGENT VIEW TO YOU THAT WE NOT MISS A BEAT IN USING THE PLANNING FOR MOSTAGHNI'S TRIP AS THE BASIS FOR AN INVITATION TO GENERAL HAIDER. HAIDER, A MEMBER MN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH PLANNED DAOUD'S 1973 COUP, A MOHAMMADZAI (THE OLIGARCHIC FIRST FAMILY TO WHICH DAOUD ALSO BELONGS), COMMANDER OF THE CENTRAL FORCES SINCE 1973, AND NOW DE FACTO MINISTER OF DEFENSE (DAOUD HOLDS THE PORTFOLIO) AS WELL AS CHIEF OF STAFF, WEARS ALL THE MOSTAGHNI HATS IN ADDITION TO HAVING FAMILY CONNECTIONS WHICH MOSTAGHNI NEVER HAD. HAIDER IS KNOWN AS AN UNQUESTIONING DAOUD LOYALIST.

4. HAIDER HAS THE REPUTATION OF A HARDLINER ON THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE, BUT WILL CERTAINLY MOVE CAUTIOUSLY IN THIS AS WELL AS ALL AREAS IN HIS INITIAL PERIOD AS CHIEF OF STAFF. WE ARE NOT SURE ABOUT HIS EAST/WEST ORIENTATION (ALTHOUGH OF COURSE SOVIETS DOMINATE THE MILITARY SCENE HERE), BUT WE ARE FAIRLY SURE THAT, LIKE DAOUD, HAIDER IS AN AFGHAN NATIONALIST, INDEPENDENT OF FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES. RA TRIP TO THE U.S. WOULD STRENGTHEN THIS INDEPENDENCE.

5. HIS RELATIVE NEWNESS AS THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND HIS POTENTIAL FOR LEADERSHIP (HE IS ONE OF THE FIVE OR TEN INDIVIDUALS MOST OFTEN MENTIONED AS A SUCCESSOR TO DAOUD) MAKE IT SEEM CLEAR TO US THAT HAIDER SHOULD BE ISSUED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE INVITATION WE WERE PLANNING TO TENDER MOSTAGHNI.

6. HAIDER'S NEWNESS TO HIS JOB, HIS LACK OF EXPOSURE TO THE U.S. COMBINED WITH THE TRIP CONCEPT YOU OUTLINED INVOLVING CONCENTRATION ON SHOWING THE CHIEF OF STAFF WHERE AND HOW AFGHAN OFFICERS ARE TRAINED IN AMERICA COMBINE EFFECTIVELY THE PRESENT BLEND OF CIRCUMSTANCES WITH OUR OWN OVERALL POLITICAL OBJECTIVES.

7. COLONEL SEWELL WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER AT CINCPAC.

8. AMBASSADOR ELIOT CONCURS IN URGING YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS CHANGE IN CANDIDATES WHICH WE OBELIEVE OFFERS OUR
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SECRET

PAGE 03 KABUL 00721 311011Z

MISSION HERE AND OUR GOVERNMENT AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY.

9. BEST PERSONAL REGARDS.
ELIOT

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NNN

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